

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00
FRB-01 OMB-01 /058 W
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R 110041Z MAR 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0097
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENES AIRES
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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PASS AGRICULTURE FROM NEELEY (AGRI NO. PRC 8008)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR CH
SUBJ: AGRILULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS: CONDITION OF WHEAT CROP IN
PRC; CODE 24M ALERT

1. SUMMARY. THE CONDITION OF THE WINTER WHEAT CROP
WAS OBSERVED IN PARTS OF HOPEH, SHANSI, SHENSI AND
HONAN PROVINCES IN EARLY MARCH. FOLLOWING A MILD WINTER,
WHEAT HAS EMERGED FROM DORMANCY EARLIER THAN USUAL.
FAVORABLE CROP CONDITIONS AT THIS TIME INDICATE A GOOD
WINTER WHEAT HARVEST IF SPRING WEATHER CONDITIONS REMAIN
FAVORABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. USLO OFFICER TRAVELED BY TRAIN PEKING/SIHCHIACHUANG/TAIYUAN
/SIAN/LOYANG/PEKING BETWEEN FEB 28 AND MARCH 7.

3. ONFEBRUARY 28 BETWEEN PEKING AND PAOTING, HOPEH,
WHEAT APPEARED MOSTLY DORMANT WITH SOME EVIDENCE OF
RENEWED SPRING GROWTH NEAR PAOTING. SOME FIELDS WERE
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BEING IRRIGATED. WHEAT APPEARED NORMAL WITH NO
NOTICEABLE EVIDENCE OF WINTER-KILL.

4. BETWEEN PAOTING AND SHIHCIAUCHUANG, HOPEH, 70 TO
80 PERCENT OF LAND WAS IN WHEAT. MOST OF WHEAT HAD
BEEN IRRIGATED AND HAD EMERGED FROM DORMANCY. MOST
WHEAT WAS ONE TO TWO INCHES TALL. WHEAT SHOWED THICK

UNIFORM STANDS, STRONG GREEN COLOR AND NO EVIDENCE OF WINTER DAMAGE. WHEAT IN THE SAND LAND AREA VERY GOOD -- BETTER THAN LAST YEAR.

5. IN THE AREA AROUND SHIHCHIACHUANG THE WHEAT WAS VERY GOOD. ALL HAD BEEN IRRIGATED AND SHOWED VIGOROUS GROWTH. IN MOST FIELDS WHEAT WAS ONE AND ONE-HALF TO TWO INCHES TALL WITH EXCELLENT STANDS. CULTIVATED AREA WAS ABOUT 90 PERCENT IN WHEAT.

6. IN THE MOUNTAINOUS AREA BETWEEN SHIHCHIACHUANG AND YANGCHUAN, SHANSI, ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF CROP LAND WAS PLANTED TO WHEAT. ALL WHEAT, EXCEPT IN A FEW UNLEVELED FIELDS, HAD EMERGED FROM DORMANCY AND WAS MAKING GOOD GROWTH -- ONE TO ONE AND ONE-HALF INCHES TALL. THE STANDS WERE NORMAL.

7. BETWEEN YANGCHUAN AND TAIYUAN, SHANSI, VERY LITTLE WHEAT WAS SEEN. ALL LAND HAD BEEN PLOWED IN PREPARATION FOR PLANTING (PROBABLY TO CORN, SORGHUM AND MILLET).

8. ON TWO COMMUNES VISITED NEAR TAIYUAN, WHEAT HAD BEEN FULLY EMERGED FROM DORMANCY. THE PLANTS WERE ABOUT TWO INCHES TALL AND GROWING WELL. THOUGH SPRING IRRIGATION HAD NOT BEGUN, THE FIELDS WERE WET FROM RECENT SNOWS. STANDS WERE GOOD AND THERE WAS NO
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EVIDENCE OF DAMAGE FROM WINTER WEATHER.

9. THE WHEAT AROUND SIAN, SHENSI, WAS IN VERY GOOD CONDITION. IN MOST FIELDS IT WAS FOUR TO FIVE INCHES TALL. BOTH STANDS AND COLOR WERE GOOD AND THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF WINTER-KILL.

10. BETWEEN SIAN AND LOYANG, HONAN, MOST OF THE AREA WAS LOESS HILLS AND VERY ROUGH TERRAIN. ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF THE CULTIVATED AREA WAS IN WHEAT. WHEAT IN THE VALLEY FIELDS WAS TO TO FOUR INCHES TALL WITH DEUNE STANDS AND GOOD COLOR. WHEAT IN UPLAND TERRACES GENERALLY GOOD BUT ONLY ONE TO TWO INCHES TALL WITH THINNER AND MORE UNEVEN STANDS. WHEAT IN UNLEVELED UNIRRIGATED FIELDS WAS ONLY FAIR.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0098

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11. ON COMMUNE VISITED NEAR LOYANG, WHEAT WAS SIX TO EIGHT INCHES TALL AND GROWING VERY WELL. STANDS WERE THICK AND COLOR WAS VERY GOOD. IN TWO UPLANDS FIELDS OBSERVED, ABOUT THREE PERCENT OF THE SHOOTS WERE YELLOW, DAMAGED BY THE COLD, AND WILL MAKE NO HEADS. NO WINTER DAMAGE WAS NOTED IN OTHER FIELDS.

IMMEDIATELY EAST OF LOYANG WHEAT WAS VERY GOOD -- SIX TO EIGHT INCHES TALL, THICK AND LUSH.

12. BETWEEN LOYANG AND CHENGCHOW, HONAN, MOST OF THE AREA WAS STEEP LOESS HILL LAND. WHEAT ON TERRACES THREE TO FOUR INCHES TALL WHERE IRRIGATED. STANDS WERE GENERALLY RATHER THIN, BUT COLOR WAS GOOD. UNIRRIGATED WHEAT ON UNLEVELLED LAND WAS SMALL AND THIN BUT COLOR WAS GOOD. WHEAT IN VALLEY FIELDS WAS ABOUT FIVE INCHES TALL WITH VERY GOOD STANDS AND GOOD COLOR.

13. IN THE ARA OF EHNGCHOW ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF LAND WAS IN WHEAT, WHICH WAS ABOUT SEVEN INCHES TALL, AND WAS GENERALLY OF GOOD COLOR WITH THICK STANDS. IN SOME OF THE FIELDS YELLOW SHOOTS WERE NOTED WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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MAY HAVE BEEN WINTER DAMAGE. WHEAT HERE NOT AS GOOD AS THAT IN SIAN OR LOYANG.

14. FROM CHENGCHOW TO HANTAN, HOPEH, ABOUT 70 TO 80 PERCENT OF LAND WAS IN WHEAT. WHEAT IN MOST FIELDS WAS ONE TO TWO INCHES TALL WITH FAIR TO GOOD STANDS AND

GENERALLY GOOD COLOR. SOME FIELDS WITH TALLER GROWTHS SHOWED SOME YELLOWING WHICH MAY INDICATE WINTER DAMAGE.

15. BETWEEN HANTAN AND SHIHCHIACHUANG, HOPEH, MUCH OF THE LAND WAS LOW ROLLING HILLS AND SAND LANDS. WHEAT IN THIS AREA IN MOST YEARS IS RATHER POOR. THE LAND IS NOW ABOUT 60 TO 70 PERCENT SOWN TO WHEAT. WHEAT IS MOSTLY ONE TO TWO INCHES TALL. STANDS IN SOME FIELDS WERE RATHER THIN BUT GENERALLY UNIFORM. COLOR WAS MOSTLY GOOD. A FEW FIELDS OF TALLER WHEAT APPEARED TO HAVE SUFFERED MINOR WINTER DAMAGE. IN MANY FIELDS, CORN WAS BEING INTERPLANTED WITH THE WHEAT. WHEAT SOUTH OF SHIHCHIACHUANG WAS VERY GOOD.

15. COMMENT: THE CONDITION OF THE WHEAT CROP AT THIS TIME APPEARS TO BE BETTER AND MORE ADVANCED THAN AT THIS TIME THE PREVIOUS TWO YEARS. EVIDENCE OF WINTER-KILL APPEARS MINIMAL. SHOULD SEVERE COLD WEATHER OCCUR NOW FOLLOWING THE MILD WINTER AND EARLY EMERGENCE FROM DORMANCY, EXTENSIVE DAMAGE COULD OCCUR. OTHERWISE, WITH NORMAL SPRING WEATHER, THE PROSPECTS ARE FAVORABLE FOR A VERY GOOD WINTER WHEAT HARVEST. HOWEVER, THE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE TODAY (MARCH 10) IS 21 DEGREES F AND IS FORECAST TO REMAIN AT THIS LEVEL FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

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